CLAIMS

1. A dispersion comprising particles of metal oxide dispersed in a siloxane fluid and a dispersing agent which is a polysiloxane wherein (i) the polysiloxane comprises in the range from 0.1 to 3 carboxyl groups, and (ii) the ratio of non-carboxyl group containing monomer units to carboxyl group containing monomer units in the polysiloxane is in the range from 40 to 150:1.

2. A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the polysiloxane has a viscosity in the range from 0.2 to 10 Pa.s.

3. A dispersion according to either one of claims 1 and 2 wherein the polysiloxane has a molecular weight (number average) in the range from 4,000 to 15,000.

4. A dispersion according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the dispersion comprises greater than 30%, more preferably greater than 40%, and particularly greater than 50% by weight of particles of metal oxide.

5. A dispersion according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the polysiloxane comprises 0.8 to 2.5 carboxyl groups per molecule.

6. A dispersion according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the polysiloxane comprises in the range from 30 to 200 non-carboxyl group containing monomer units.

7. A dispersion according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the carboxyl group is attached laterally, preferably only laterally, to the polysiloxane chain.

8. A dispersion according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the metal oxide particles are hydrophobic.

9. A dispersion according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the siloxane fluid dispersing medium is a cyclic oligomeric dialkylsiloxane, a linear dimethyl-siloxane oligomer and/or polymer, and/or phenyltris(trimethylsiloxy)silane.

10. A method of preparing a dispersion of metal oxide which comprises milling with a particulate grinding medium particles of metal oxide in a siloxane fluid in the presence of a dispersing agent which is a polysiloxane wherein (i) the polysiloxane comprises in the range from 0.1 to 3 carboxyl groups, and (ii) the ratio of non-carboxyl group containing monomer units to carboxyl group containing monomer units in the polysiloxane is in the range from 40 to 150:1.

11. A sunscreen composition comprising particles of metal oxide, a siloxane fluid, and a polysiloxane comprising (i) in the range from 0.1 to 3 carboxyl groups, and (ii) non-carboxyl group containing monomer units to carboxyl group containing monomer units at a ratio in the range from 40 to 150:1.

12. The use of a dispersion comprising particles of metal oxide dispersed in a siloxane fluid and a dispersing agent which is a polysiloxane wherein (i) the polysiloxane comprises in the range from 0.1 to 3 carboxyl groups, and (ii) the ratio of non-carboxyl group containing monomer units to carboxyl group containing monomer

units in the polysiloxane is in the range from 40 to 150:1, to form an end-use sunscreen composition.